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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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20 September 1984

WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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BRIEFS

SYMPOSIUM ON BROADCASTING REFORM--To study the problems of how to do a good job in reform of broadcasting work in the new situation, the symposium on broadcasting work in southwest and northwest China opened in (Boheda) guest house, Urumqi, this morning. Representatives of announcers from the broadcasting stations in all provinces and autonomous regions in southwest and northwest China are attending the symposium. Representatives of announcers from the Central People's Broadcasting Station, the Beijing Broadcasting Institute, and the broadcasting stations of 10 other provinces and autonomous regions in the country are attending the symposium by invitation. Janabil, secretary of the regional CPC committee, attended the opening ceremony and spoke. In his speech, Comrade Janabil sent cordial regards to the announcers who industriously do propaganda work in the forefront of broadcasting all year round. He also hoped that they would seriously sum up and exchange experiences in the reform of broadcasting work, would enhance the quality of broadcasting work, and would become the best propagandists of the party and the government and friends whom the masses love. [Text] [HK211451 Urumqi Xinjiang Regional Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 17 Aug 84]

OPTICAL FIBER COMMUNICATIONS CENTER--Beijing, 11 Aug (XINHUA)--The Beijing Municipal Optical Fiber Communications Technology Research and Development Center was formally established today. This research and development center, organized by more than 20 units, is a joint establishment for scientific research, development, application, and service; it will practice a remunerative contract system. Its main tasks will be to do research on and popularize scientific and technological achievements, provide various complete sets of optical fiber communication systems, and engage in application and development work in order to gradually make the new technology of optical fiber communications a standard commodity. Optical fiber communications represents a revolution in communications technology. Transmitting messages with this technology has such advantages as large capacity, fast speed, a high degree of security, and strong interference resistance. It is an advanced technology that is rapidly developing internationally. [Text] [OW140125 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1325 GMT 11 Aug 84]

CSO: 5500/4149

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES, BUSINESS LOSSES FOR MITEL REPORTED

Montreal LE DEVOIR in French 20 Jun 84 p 13

[Article by Paul Durivage: "Administrative Shakeup at Mitel; Financial Analysts Remain Prudent About the Future Performance of the Company"]

[Text] "Mitel still has a lot to do to get back on the road of profitability. The administrative reshuffling announced at the beginning of the week does not constitute either a positive or a negative event."

That is what Mr Murray Grossner of Richardson Greenshields Ltd of Canada told DEVOIR. The analyst's remarks also reflect the hesitation still felt in financial research circles to recommend the acquisition of shares of the company of Kanata in Ontario in spite of the weakness of the stock and the recent developments achieved in the company.

Mitel Corporation announced several changes within its upper level management on Monday. As a result, Mr Donald Gibb, 38, resigned from his position as executive vice president and chief of operations which he had held since March 1983 with an annual salary of \$116,500 Canadian. He has not yet been replaced. In addition, a new position of vice president for international affairs has been created. This job will go to Mr Georges H. Gilmore, 35, an administrative consultant from McKensey & Company of Toronto.

Also, three assistant vice presidents were promoted to vice president. They are Mr Ronald Evans, in charge of large system products; Mr Lester Kirkland, responsible for small system and peripheral engineering; and Mr Gino Tocci, for large system engineering.

In another effort to make its business profitable, Mitel Corporation laid off some 250 employees at its Canadian and American factories during the first months of the year. Some 130 more layoffs took place in mid-May at the factory in Ireland. The company's work force now stands at 5,400.

These announcements figure among the numerous recommendations written in the analytical report of the Toronto management consulting firm, McKensey & Company, chosen for this reason last year. Mr Grossner anticipates that other important changes will be announced by Mitel in the near future.

Nevertheless, Richardson Greenshields still maintains its recommendation to sell, if not to avoid, high technology stock. According to its researchers, the company will just barely move into profitability this year and will post a gain of \$0.50 per share of common stock in 1985. This represents a cost/profit ratio of 18X, compared to an industry average of 11X.

"The challenge confronted by Mitel is formidable. Research and development expenses for the SX-2000 have already exceeded \$40 million Canadian. Consequently, this product will have to be a major marketplace success to ultimately justify this investment," according to last May's INVESTMENT THINKING, the monthly stock market analysis journal of the Canadian brokerage firm. The SX-2000 numerical telephone switching device is one of the principal products developed, manufactured and marketed by Mitel.

Mitel posted losses for the first time in its 6-year existence during the past fiscal year. The year, ending 24 February 1984, produced a deficit of \$32.4 million Canadian or \$0.85 per share of common stock compared to a net profit of \$14.8 million or \$0.39 per share for the same period a year earlier. Most of this deficit, or \$25.2 million Canadian, was registered during the last quarter.

The president of the technological firm, Mr Terence Matthews, attributed the deficit primarily to too rapid expansion, to increases in expenditures devoted to a new product research and development, and to difficulties encountered with the SX-2000. While expecting the company to realize a profit this year, he himself predicted that it would very likely still experience difficulties for at least the first half of this fiscal year.

The telecommunications device manufacturer's stock closed Monday at a price of \$9.00 on the Toronto Stock Exchange, down \$0.13 from the preceding session. Since the beginning of the year, the stock has fallen from a high of \$20.50 to a low of \$7.75. To the apprehensions of interested parties concerning Mitel's future is added a general feeling of mistrust of the hi-tech sector. The Canadian technological index calculated by Richardson Greenshields indicated a decline of 35 percent at the end of last May compared to the peak reached in August 1983.

12666
CSO: 5500/2747

OUTLINE OF 3-YEAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INVESTMENT PLAN

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Aug 84 p C-1

[Text] Chilean Telephone Company to get the largest amount, with 11,587,000,000 pesos for various projects including the installation of 200,000 telephone lines from 1984 to 1986.

Other undertakings will be carried out by Entel, Telex, the Postal Service and National Television in addition to some projects by the private sector.

Investments amounting to 16,533,600,000 pesos are being contemplated for the telecommunications sector during 1984-86, in accordance with the Triennial Program drafted by the economic authorities.

Most of the allocation is intended for telephonic and related projects, and the largest portion, totaling 13,918,000,000 pesos, is earmarked for the state enterprises.

In the case of the Chilean Telephone Company, an appropriation of 11,587,000,000 pesos is being provided, included among the projects are the installation of 200,000 telephone lines during 1984-86 with the resultant expansion of the long-distance and international systems, the automation of the localities of Quillota, Colina and La Ligua, the installation of long-distance public telephones, the improvement of the reliability of the service, and others.

The appropriation anticipated for the National Telecommunications Enterprise in the triennium amounts to 1,619,800,000 pesos with a view to the expansion of the existing transmission network, new linkups, interurban centers, civil works, and allocations for operation and for development studies.

Telex Chile Enterprise will carry out such projects as the overhaul of the telex network, a message exchange center, telephone exchange for telegraphic service, development of the network, replacement of obsolete equipment, expansion of the Telex Santiago exchange, office improvement, and replacement of telegraphic terminal equipment, for a total outlay of 258.5 million pesos.

In the case of the Chilean Postal Service, the appropriation for the triennium amounts to 359.5 million pesos, and the projects include the replacement of equipment; forwarding centers; construction and repair of agencies and offices; and computing equipment.

The Chilean National Television enterprise has investment projects totaling 94 million pesos for the triennium, among which are the direct transmission of the TVN signal nationwide via satellite, appraisal and renovation of transmitting and repeater equipment, construction of a press studio, and construction of a show studio. The last project represents an outlay of 70 million pesos.

The document makes clear that the telecommunications sector will not be a significant source of employment, estimating that new jobs will not exceed 2,000 permanent positions.

Goals

The Triennial Program for the telecommunications sector sets as a goal in the telephony area to attain a measured ratio of 7.5 telephones per 100 inhabitants, meeting at least 90 percent of the stated demand at a national level.

It also proposes to increase the coverage of the service, especially in the rural zones, by providing telephonic service of at least a long-distance public telephone (TPLD) in every locality of more than 300 inhabitants designated as a center of local development.

Moreover, emphasis will be given to the development of new services, both in the properly telephonic sense--such as direct distant dialing (DDD) and direct international dialing (DDI), etc.--and in the added-value sense. As to the former, it is proposed that at least 90 percent of the national subscribers will have full access to the DDD and DDI service within the period.

As to the other services, the program points out that within the period, the national telex networks should be fully interconnected; the number of localities with telegraphic service should increase, and this will be provide jointly with TPLD telephony in the aforementioned rural communities, if convenient; and television broadcasts will reach at least 95 percent of the national population.

8414

CSO: 5500/2065

REGIONAL TELEVISION SYSTEMS PLANNED

PA291944 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Aug 84

[Text] Bogota--The plan to set up television channels by region has crystallized; the first of these channels--National Institute of Radio and Television [Inravisión]--will begin operating before the end of this year, Director Fernando Barrero Chavez has said. He told CARACOL that on Friday he will receive the first technicians' inspection report on the Medellin project, which the Antioquia Department governor's office is currently analyzing.

The reports on the other two regional television systems that have applied for operation permits thus far--those of the Cali and Barranquilla systems--will be sent to him at a later date, Barrero said, adding that Inravisión already received the preliminary study reports for those systems. The media official said that these channels will broadcast strictly cultural material, not commercial programs, thus guaranteeing that they exclusively air programs reflecting each region's cultural values and traditions.

Barrero Chavez and Communications Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada have both stressed that all that will be permitted is that the television channels be regionalized, but that they will not be allowed to go into private hands, as programmers are requesting. They maintain that Colombia is not ready for that kind of system.

The communications minister, the director of Inravisión, and several former communications ministers have been called to report before an informal meeting of the Senate's sixth commission to continue the debate on Colombian television and the plans to reform it.

CSO: 5500/2070

BRIEFS

RADIO PERMIT ASSIGNMENTS--Bogota--The Communications Ministry has suspended the granting of permits for the operation of communications networks within the 138 to 174 MHz frequency range in the Sabanas de Bogota area. Communications Minister Noemi Sanin said that the measure was adopted after it was confirmed that the subband between 138 and 174 MHz is congested. She also stated that the ministry will assign frequencies on the BHS band within the following ranges: from 30 to 50 MHz, from 74.6 to 76 MHz, and from 225 to 235 MHz. Finally, the communications minister said that for the cities of Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla, frequencies are being assigned within the range of 138 to 174 MHz but with shared schedules. For the remainder of the cities in the country, there are no restrictions regarding the assignment of frequencies within the range mentioned. [Text] [PA272233 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Aug 84]

CSO: 5500/2069

GOVERNMENT ORDERS CLOSURE OF RADIO STATION

PA262155 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Wilfredo Justavino]

[Excerpts] David, Chiriqui -- An order closing the La Voz del Baru radio station and canceling its licenses to use the frequencies of 1025 kHz and 173.725 MHz, which were granted in Resolutions No 17 of 5 December 1946 and No 540 of 11 June 1979, was issued yesterday, 24 July, at 1500.

Chiriqui Governor Virgilio Vergara, accompanied by Arnolfo Diaz Wong, social communications director for the Provinces of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro, and by two Defense Force members, went to the station in David, Chiriqui in accordance with Note No 84-052 ordering the closure of the station, which was up for sale.

The Government and Justice Ministry declared that "the radio station La Voz del Baru, which had been given the frequency of 1025 kHz, does not meet the technical conditions and characteristics specified in Executive Decree No 155 of 28 May 1962."

La Voz del Baru has been receiving threatening anonymous telephone calls for the last 3 months; then, newscast director Genarino Rosas was denied his radio commentator's license; and now, Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon has ordered the station's closure and the revocation of its frequencies.

CSO: 5300/2063

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION SIGNS MAJOR CONTRACTS

Gaborone BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS in English 21 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

GABORONE, August 21: The Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) on Thursday signed two major contracts which amount to over P35 million for the improvement and expansion of Telecommunication Services in Botswana.

The biggest of the contracts, costing P23 895 844, was signed between the Permanent Secretary of Works and Communications, Mr C.M. Lekaukau who is Chairman of the Board of BTC, on behalf of BTC, and Mr H. Johansson, Marketing Director of L.M. Ericsson of Sweden, which would supply some 21 000 lines of the latest generation of computer-controlled digital telephone exchange equipment.

According to Mr Johansson, the equipment will replace the 12 000 of the 13 000 lines in Botswana and will allow for growth into the next decade.

He said the digital microwave, which uses 31 radio relay points, would cover over 900km and link the exchanges from Lobatse to Francistown, with attachments to Kanye, Orapa, Molepolole, Jwaneng, Mochudi, Palapye, Serowe and Selebi-Phikwe.

After completion, he said, Botswana would have the most advanced telephone system available in the world today.

Botswana would be the 54th country in the world to either install or use similar equipment, he said.

The second contract, for

P14 462 914, was signed between Mr Lekaukau on behalf of BTC, and Mr J.H. Hillier, the Financial Director, on behalf of Telephone Cables Limited (TCL) of the United Kingdom, a company which is to install and supply cables connecting the new exchanges to be installed by L.M. Ericsson, to the telephone instruments in offices and homes.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, held today at Gaborone Sun Conference Centre, Mr Hillier said they will be using under-ground cables mainly, the latest generation joining methods and air pressurisation techniques to ensure that the quality and reliability of the new network complements that of the telephone exchanges.

These new cables manufactured by TCL, he said, would range in size from five to 2 000 pairs and would be installed in ducts or directly buried.

Some overhead lines will also be used, he added.

Mr Hillier said the operation would employ about 600 locals and that a training facility would be provided to enable local Botswana engineers to assist TCL in the installation as well as maintain the cable network when completed.

Mr Hillier said his company is a subsidiary of the General Electrical Company UK and that TCL is the largest telephone cable company in Europe.

He said this contract was their first in Botswana and that he is

confident that with the company's considerable experience of similar contracts worldwide, it would meet and even exceed the obligations under their contract.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the Board of BTC, Mr Lekaukau said that the time scale for the completion of all the work under both contracts is three years but the majority of the work would be completed and the system is designed to reduce to a minimum the waiting period for telephones and eliminate congestion in trunk routes between the main centres.

Asked to comment on the advantages of the new system to the use of the telephone wires in interview, the Senior Assistant Engineer of the Main Development Programme, Mr David Disele, said that telephone wires are very unreliable means of communication since they were susceptible to natural hazards such as lightning, wind or even animals whereas this new ones, are not.

He said another advantage of these systems was that they naturally have an extremely high capacity.

Mr Disele said, the installation of the new system would probably be regarded as the most important move in the short term life of the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation.

He further said that the tower which was recently completed next to the BTC building was done to accommodate antennas for the microwave systems.

RADIO FREQUENCY SYSTEM PLAN URGED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Jul 84 p 9

[Article by Victor Attai]

[Text]

Lagos

A PROPERLY planned and controlled system of radio frequency is necessary if the problems of harmful interference by users both within and outside the country is to be averted, Minister of Communications Lt-Colonel Ahmed Abdullahi, said in Lagos on Tuesday.

He said at the inaugural meeting of the newly reconstituted National Frequency Management Board that the radio frequency was a "limited natural resources" which should be protected by users especially as it is equally available to all nations of the world.

Lt-Col. Ahmed said that the Federal Military Government in pursuance of its policy of ensuring an effective and efficient utilisation of radio frequency spectrum in Nigeria, gave the approval for the reconstitution of the board which was originally set up by the military administration.

He explained that the purpose of setting up a national frequency management board was to create a forum whereby representatives of the major users of radio frequency meet to discuss problems and examine existing policies with a view to offering advice on the utilisation and management of radio frequency in the country.

The 12-man reconstituted board is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Yomi Oyewola, the Assistant Director of Communication Supreme Head quarters.

Others were Major B. N. Azorji from the Nigerian Army Squadron leader S.B. Oguntuyi from the Nigerian Air Force. Mr. R. C. Nwokedi and Mr. O. Odigie from the Ministry of Communications, Dr. E. N. Aniegbonam from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Mr. I. O. Akinyemi from the Federal Radio Corporation and Mr. B.T. Osunli from the cabinet office.

Those absent were from the Navy, defence, state house and the Nigeria Police Force and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation

CSO: 5500/108

RADIO, TELEVISION COMPANY TO BE ORGANIZED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 Jul 84 p 10

[Text]

THE Anambra State Military Governor, Navy Capt. Allison Madueke, has ordered the immediate retirement of six senior officials of the Anambra Television (ATV) and the Anambra Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), a statement from Government House in Enugu said.

Those affected include the directors-general of the ABC, Mr. Humphery Nwokobia-Agu and Mr. Boniface Ofokaja, respectively.

The others are the assistant director (news and current affairs), Mr. Emmanuel Nnaji and the administrative manager, Mr. Tom Inyama, both of the ATV.

The deputy director-general of the ABC, Anthony Okieilo and the director of finance of the corporation, Mr. S.I.C. Okoye, were also retired.

Navy Capt. Allison Madueke has also appointed a five-man

committee to re-organise and merge the ATV and ABC into one authority which would be known as Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS).

Mr. Ralph Opata, the Enugu zonal director of the FRN, was appointed the chairman of the committee, while Mr. D.C. Okwudili would serve as the secretary.

The committee is to evolve new conditions of service for the ABC in line with the prevalent conditions in the state public corporations.

It is also to re-examine the size, suitability and salary grades of all staff of the two organisations.

Navy Capt. Madueke said that the action was in the public interest and in pursuance of the government's decision to re-organize the information system as indicated in the 1984 budget speech. (NAN).

CSO: 5500/108

SABC-TV 'SPILLAGE WAR' EXAMINED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 25 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by J. Manuel Correia]

[Text] The SABC's attempts to block out as much Bop-TV spillage as possible appear to have had little effect.

People are watching Bop-TV whether their reception is good, fair or poor-- and what's more they are watching more Bop-TV than TV1, according to a survey by Complete Media, which is to be released next week.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday 294 people had been surveyed in the Johannesburg and West Rand telephone areas. Respondents in white households equipped to receive Bop were averaging 37 hours daily on Bop as opposed to 1,13 hours on SABC.

The degree to which the SABC is "refining" the signal, thus cutting out spillage, seems to have had little effect.

Only 7% of the total sample said they had been totally blacked out. About 10% of viewers said their reception had worsened but they were still watching the station.

Meanwhile, Aerial King Sales, the firm which developed an aerial best suited for the Bop signal, has brought hope for improved reception--a new 111-element aerial with a 40db gain, a low-noise amplifier and a preamplifier to fit into the new aerial.

The equipment will retail at about R300.

The firm's MD, Mr David Solovei, confirmed complaints received by the Rand Daily Mail about people being cheated when buying Bop-TV aeriels.

"We have had many reports of people being ripped off. Viewers can phone us and we shall refer them to reputable dealers," he said.

"Our equipment is 100% developed and made in South Africa to save on foreign exchange and to provide job opportunities."

Bop-TV protest petition tables will be out at the Northmead Mall in Boksburg from 9am to 1pm today.

The organisers are not gathering signatures in Johannesburg this weekend because they want to clear up administrative problems.

CSO: 5500/110

MICROWAVE LINK WITH BOTSWANA OPENED

Harare THE HERALD in English 23 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

PLUMTREE.

THE microwave link commissioned in Plumtree yesterday will enhance the traditionally close ties that have bound the people of Botswana and Zimbabwe together for centuries, the Prime Minister, Ode Mugabe, has said.

Jointly commissioning the microwave link with President Quett Masire, Ode Mugabe said the Botswana and Zimbabweans have lived and worked together and interacted with each other peacefully since time immemorial.

"We were subsequently subjected to the yoke of the same colonial power and together we fought to free ourselves from it.

"We in Zimbabwe remember so well and with heartfelt gratitude the sterling role that Botswana played towards the liberation of our country," the Prime Minister told hundreds of people who gathered to witness the occasion.

From that unity-in-

struggle that was forged in the grim days of colonial domination and oppression the two leaders met yesterday to inaugurate one additional dimension of a new unity-in-development, he said.

The microwave link is a small part of a larger pan-African telecommunications network known as Panafel.

"In April this year the line from Bulawayo to Livingstone in Zambia was completed and commissioned. The Panafel network will now link up by telephone all the Eastern and Southern African countries from Botswana to Ethiopia," Ode Mugabe said.

The two leaders met at Plumtree airfield before travelling to the town's post office where hundreds of people from Bulima - Mangwe district had gathered to witness the opening ceremony.

Although an open wire telephone link between the two countries had been in operation since 1894, this was subject to numerous problems and had become increasingly

unreliable.

Making a telephone call between the two countries had become an ordeal. The new system would provide 900 lines compared to only 24 lines on the old one and would be free of the physical interference to which the old system was prone.

Ode Mugabe thanked the Norwegian and Swedish governments for their participation in the project which covered the links between Botswana and Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The two countries' contribution of \$18 million would cover an international switching centre in Gweru.

President Masire echoed Ode Mugabe's thanks, saying the benefits which the microwave link would bring would be deeply appreciated by the people of Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The opening of the link, he said marked another important connection between the two countries and was a logical development following the establishment of railway, road and air links.—
Herald Corr. Ziana.

U.S. ATTITUDE AT UN INFORMATION COMMITTEE SESSION HIT

Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 33, Aug 84 pp 14-15

[Article by Yuri Kashlev, D. Sc. (Hist.)]

[Text]

A broad cross section of the world information scene was afforded by the annual meeting of the U.N. Committee on Information recently held at U.N. headquarters in New York. In the course of the three weeks of deliberations attention was focussed on the performance of particular news agencies and radio broadcasting stations, the distribution of the international flow of information, the size of television audiences, the level of development of communication systems in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the relevant principles of international law, and the psychological warfare practices resorted to.

The Committee was formed in 1979 by decision of the 34th U.N. General Assembly to deal with two basic problems: the contribution of UNO to efforts to establish a new international order in the sphere of information and the functioning of the U.N. Secretariat's public information services. The Assembly elected to it 67 countries—among them the Soviet Union, the U.S., Britain, France, the G.D.R., India, Japan, Poland, Cuba, Vietnam, Algeria, Indonesia, Bulgaria, West Germany, Congo, and Mongolia—with a view to fair geographical distribution.

The present writer attended this year's annual meeting of the Committee as head of the Soviet delegation. The session was marked by unprecedentedly sharp political and ideological clashes indicative of the growing polarization among the various groups of countries and the obstructionist policy of the leading

Western powers. As a result the Committee was for the first time unable to work out agreed recommendations for the next U.N. General Assembly.

The Substance of the Problem

For many years now there has been talk at diverse international forums about the abnormal situation prevailing in the sphere of information: although the developing countries account for the majority of the world's population, only an insignificant percentage of the technical mass communication facilities—radio and TV stations and printing plants—falls to their share. Experts estimate that a handful of leading Western news agencies and radio and TV corporations circulate in Asia, Africa and Latin America roughly 100 times as much information as flows in the opposite direction.

The Committee pointed to the dangerous widening of the gap between the developing and the developed countries as regards the quantity of information available to them and the technical communication facilities they possess. This prompted many of the participants in the recent session in New York to stress that "information imperialism" remains a cardinal problem still awaiting solution.

What is needed for the developing countries to put an end to dependence on the West in this

sphere? Primarily the creation of independent national mass information infrastructures, their own regional and interregional media associations. As was noted in New York by representatives of many Asian, African and Latin American countries, some headway has been made in this respect. In some countries news agencies, newspapers and radio broadcasting stations of their own have been set up. There now function the Information Pool for the Developing Countries (it takes in more than 80 agencies), and such regional associations founded in recent years as the Organization of Asian News Agencies (OANA) and the Pan-African Information Agency (PANA). The trouble, however, is that these agencies do not have correspondents outside their own countries and are still compelled to make use of information from other, mostly Western, sources. On the other hand, lack of funds prevents them from keeping in step with the rapid development of communication techniques.

What can the United Nations do to help the developing countries, and should it help them? This question gave rise to heated debate at the New York meeting.

Experience shows that these problems can be resolved through the establishment of a new international information order. For this it is necessary, first, to help the developing countries build up their own national systems of mass information, and, second, to work out on an international plane principles of exchange which would ensure sovereignty and equality and provide safeguards against propaganda expansion. This is the direct duty of the United Nations.

Representatives of developing countries once again voiced support of UNESCO, that prestigious organization, which has been attacked and blackmailed by the United States and some of its allies. They called for effort to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication sponsored by UNESCO and aimed at the collection of funds for the establishment by the Asian, African and Latin American countries of their own information media and for the training of journalists in the various countries.

At this session the developing countries displayed greater unity and determination than hitherto. Delegates from Mexico, India, Cuba, Algeria and Bangladesh directly accused the U.S., Britain, West Germany and other capitalist countries of sabotaging the creation of a new international information order.

As for the Western countries, the impression was that they had hardened their position in regard to the developing countries' demands and sought to detract from the on the whole anti-imperialist implications of the concept of a new international information order.

The Heritage Foundation to the Attack

There were sharp debates over the aims the U.N. information services should pursue. It will be recalled that the U.N. General Assembly in a special resolution on the subject gave top priority to coverage of effort for peace and disarmament, decolonization, human rights, and economic and social development of the peoples. On the whole the tasks set in these spheres are being satisfactorily carried out, and the information circulated by U.N. news services is generally useful. But this is precisely what evokes the displeasure of the U.S. and its allies, which appear in an unfavourable light when the voting in the United Nations on questions relating to peace and disarmament is objectively reported. After all, there is no concealing the fact that at the recent sessions of the U.N. General Assembly the U.S. has on dozens of occasions voted—and often enough alone—against decisions adopted by the majority of states on diverse aspects of strengthening international security.

At the meeting of the Committee delegates of the U.S., Britain and West Germany accused the U.N. information services of engaging in "anti-Western propaganda," and sought to revise the established priorities, to lay the emphasis on secondary questions, such as human rights and terrorism as interpreted by the U.S. It is not by chance that on the eve of the Committee session the Americans circulated

in the U.N. a concoction put out by the ultra-reactionary Heritage Foundation full of slander of and threats to the U.N. and its information services.

The socialist and developing countries rebuffed the crude attacks levelled at the U.N. and declared for the further expansion of its information activity in the spirit of the U.N. Charter. Some delegations submitted proposals to open in their countries new U.N. information centres, to extend U.N.-sponsored radio broadcasts to more countries, and to give fuller coverage to the problems of the Palestinian people and the struggle of the peoples of Africa. (At the same time it must be admitted that some of the proposals of the developing countries for the expansion of U.N. information activities were rather unrealistic; for example, the suggestion that the U.N. acquire its own communications satellite—an undertaking that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars—did not get general support).

During the discussion of U.N. information activity representatives of the socialist and many developing countries pointed to the fact that too many key positions in the Secretariat are occupied by citizens of Western countries, primarily Americans, which is a violation of the generally accepted principle of fair geographical distribution and has long since ceased to accord with the place and role of the different groups of countries in the U.N. and in the world in general.

The delegations of the socialist countries at the Committee session again upheld the legitimate demands of the developing countries and declared in support of UNESCO, the International Programme for the Development of Communication, and the decisions of the non-aligned movement on questions relating to information.

The Socialist Countries' Proposals

The Soviet delegation submitted a draft recommendation to the United Nations to come out definitively in favour of working out principles and standards of international information activity that would take into account the in-

terests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and would place the information media in the service of peace and the progress of all peoples.

Needless to say, the information problem cannot be resolved on a world scale unless an end is put to the arms race and the resources thus saved are channelled to meet the peaceful development needs of the nations. As it is, the developing countries, too, are compelled to spend enormous resources—up to \$100 billion annually—on armaments. As a result of unequal economic relations, the external debt of the Latin American, Asian and African countries already exceeds \$700 billion. Where, then, are they to find the means needed to establish their own up-to-date mass media?

The Soviet delegation drew the attention of the session to the documents adopted by the CMEA economic summit in Moscow, and particularly to the Declaration on the Maintenance of Peace and International Economic Co-operation, and also Andrei Gromyko's May 1984 letter to the U.N. Secretary-General on the connection between disarmament and development. These documents clearly show where the funds can be found for resolving socio-economic problems.

Another universal and extremely urgent task is to put an end to the use of information channels for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, subversion and psychological warfare. At the New York session the delegations of the Soviet Union, Poland, Cuba and the G.D.R. strongly condemned the subversive activity of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, as well as the plans for the inauguration this year of the American anti-Cuban Radio Marti. It is noteworthy that the delegates of the U.S. and Chile were the only ones to defend these subversion centres. We also pointed to the danger presented by Washington's plans for television aggression against other peoples through a system of communications satellites now being created at top speed.

In connection with the campaign mounted in the West, and primarily in the U.S., to discredit the United Nations, the delegations of

the socialist countries underscored the impermissibility of attempts to undermine the universality of the world organization and to limit the participation of its members in the discussion of problems relating to the safeguarding of world peace. That the approaching 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and of the founding of the United Nations should be the occasion for popularizing the organization's lofty ideals and its achievements in the struggle for peace was the subject of a special recommendation submitted at the Committee session by the delegations of the U.S.S.R. and the Ukrainian S.S.R.

. . .

The Western countries categorically refused to accept the proposals advanced by the developing countries in support of a new information order, of the activities of UNESCO and the decisions of the Djakarta conference of information ministers of non-aligned States. On their part, the developing countries rejected Western proposals aimed at revival of the "free flow of information" slogan.

Owing to the intransigence of the U.S. and its allies, no consensus was

arrived at on these and other questions. It was decided to adjourn the session until the beginning of September, when several more sittings will be held in an effort to produce agreed texts for submission to the General Assembly.

It may be safely predicted that a sharp struggle is ahead. At several recent sessions of the General Assembly it has been the tactics of the U.S. and its closest allies to begin by pressuring the delegations of the developing countries to drop their anti-imperialist demands, including the demand for a new information order, and then to vote against the relevant resolution. This was the case in 1981, 1982 and 1983, when the U.S. voted against either alone or together with Israel and Britain.

This obstructionist line is countered by the growing resolve of most countries—the socialist and many developing countries—to secure the elimination of "information imperialism," and the use of information media to strengthen peace, to promote mutual understanding among nations and social and national progress.

New York

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FRANCE

DOMESTIC VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS MARKET SPREADS

Paris Connection Awaited

Paris LES ECHOS in French 5 Jul 84 p 6

[Article by Olivier Fleurot]

[Text] The Societe Anonyme de Telecommunications [Telecommunications Corporation] (SAT) has embarked on one of the most attractive technological and cultural adventures, but also one of the riskiest financial ventures of the end of this century: video communications networks.

The contractor for the experimental network in optical fibers in Biarritz, the SAT has been impatiently awaiting the first commercial repercussions. And here they are. A number of specific achievements in the field of video communications in Paris and an agreement with the Velec/OGCT group have brought it nearly 240 million francs worth of orders for 1984 and 1985.

This is enough to put the firm back on its feet, a firm which was forced to find new markets rapidly to offset the steady decline in traditional orders from the PTT [Post, Telegraph, Telephone] or National Defense.

With a 1983 sales volume of 2.5 billion francs before taxes a 13.6 percent increase over 1982 (using an equivalent structure), and net profits of 14 million francs (8.87 million in 1983), the SAT is staking a great deal on the cable, to achieve results worthy of a high-technology enterprise.

The 49.83 percent increase in SILEC's business (1.1 billion franc sales volume in 1983) and the creation of a specialized subsidiary, Satcable, grouping together SILEC and SAT's own activities in this area, together form a powerful weapon with which to compete in France and abroad.

"Paris will be a beautiful shop window and we feel that we are in the best position to fill the orders for communications material for export," is the optimistic statement of Francois Le Menestrel, the SAT's secretary general.

But the first 30,000 homes in the 15th district to receive optical fiber cables from the SAT will not impress foreign visitors unless the cables are fully operational and offer good quality programs.

While Suresnes, Saint-Cloud and Boulogne are signing their draft agreements with the PTT, the city of Paris has not yet finalized its agreement. This has given rise to a great deal of legal and financial uncertainty as to its operation and the nature and quality of the programs with the Parisian network will offer to its initial subscribers.

Isn't the deliberate decision to launch two technologies--optical fiber and coaxial cable--at the same time in Paris a sign of uncertainty and doubt? According to Francois Le Menestrel, "carrying European programs would be a minimal system for Paris. The SAT in any case is placing its bets on video communications, as it knows that if nothing is done in the next 2 years, we will have a hard time catching up with our foreign competitors."

It is obvious that even without clear-cut regulations in the field, firms need to put the pressure on. SAT as well as the others.

Biarritz Testbed Successful

Paris LES ECHOS in French 5 Jul 84 p 6

[Text] Expected to be operating in 1985, the optical fiber network to conduct programs throughout Paris will carry nine (and then eventually 16) color television programs and two sound channels between the programming station and the use and distribution centers in the 13th, 14th and 15th districts.

The DTIF has also contracted the SAT to distribute television programs on coaxial cable to about 25,000 receivers in the 13th and 14th districts. The SAT is doing this project in partnership with Tonna Electronique.

The SAT has also signed an agreement with the OGCT/Velec group, which received an order from the PTT for 160,000 homes. This agreement gives it access to the market for optical fiber cables and other equipment, such as modems for about 80 percent of the orders, and responsibility for the work on certain sites.

Thus the SAT has been designated as the contractor in optical fiber cables for the first 30,000 homes in the 15th district of Paris. The cables are supposed to be in operation by 1986. The Tonna Electronique-SAT Steria group will also be the contractor for the network headquarters in Paris.

New Subscribers Identified

Paris LES ECHOS in French 5 Jul 84 p 6

[Text] Now it's the sixth! Yesterday Louis Mexandeau and Jean-Pierre Fourcade, representing the intercommunal syndicate of Boulogne-Billancourt, Saint-Cloud, Sevres and Suresnes, signed the sixth draft agreement to set up a video communications network for 30,000 outlets in 1985. This gave Mr Fourcade an opportunity to stress the fact that the company operating this network will not be using any tax revenue to finance it.

Another feature is that each of the four towns will have the opportunity to distribute a program received only by its inhabitants on a local channel. A small piece of gossip: Mr Fourcade believes that importing foreign programs is an essential part of the project, while the government wants foreign programming to be no more than one-third of the total.

Having returned recently from Italy, Mr Mexandeau is concerned about the poor quality of television there, and has emphasized the importance of good programs. The nature of the programming is still one of the key points of the cable plan, with the financial participation should be discussed as the project progresses.

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NO PRIVATE INDUSTRIES HAVE YET SUBSCRIBED TO TELECOM 1

Paris LES ECHOS in French 8 Aug 84 p 6

[Article by A.-E. R.]

[Text] At the time of the launching of Telecom 1, we could justifiably write that this jewel of the General Directorate for Telecommunications (DGT), designed to facilitate internal communications among French enterprises, had cost about 3 billion francs without earning one cent: not one from among all the many anticipated customers had stepped forward.

That is no longer the case: "Of the 30 or so enterprises and agencies which showed an intent to use the digital facilities offered by Telecom 1, four have confirmed their requests for connection to the network on the actual day of launching," the Compagnie Francaise des Cables Sous-Marins et de Radio (French Company for Submarine Cable and Radio) announced yesterday.

Does this mean that 26 of them backed down from a technically perfect operation? On Monday, Telecom 1 reached its final geostationary orbit, 36,000 kilometers from earth, for a final operational installation after its last tests on 26 August.

It would no doubt be somewhat petty to interpret things in this way. But in reading the names of the four enterprises which stated their position, we must admit that this new service is not particularly popular. The four consist of a national enterprise (Saint-Gobain), two agencies (Ganil--Large National Heavy Ion Accelerator, supported by the Ministry for Research, and the National Meteorological Service), as well as Matra-Aerospace, another national enterprise, and what is more, designer and general contractor of Telecom 1. It would have been difficult for it not to be among Telecom 1's first customers!

Matra-Espace will use Telecom 1 to transfer information files between its Velizy-Villacoublay (Yvelines) and Toulouse centers, and organize video conferences for its managers. Saint-Gobain will establish communications among its 24 CAD (computer assisted design) centers.

Ganil, which runs a particle accelerator at Caen (Calvados), will thus have access to the computer resources of Universite de Paris Sud, the Ecole Polytechnique at Palaiseau (Essonne), and the AEC Saclay center, for analyzing its results with such large computers as the Cray 1.

Lastly, the National Meteorological Service will use Telecom 1 to constantly transmit its weather maps from Paris to two regional airports (Rouen and Poitiers), and ultimately to 150 observation sites.

It is true that private enterprises have no reason to hurry: the public utility concession that would assign to France Cables et Radio the responsibility for marketing Telecom 1's services has still not been signed, as it should have been three years ago, and contracts with prospective customers have to be formally approved by this company, which does not expect to do so before October.

11,023

CSO: 5500/2762

BRIEFS

ANDEAN SATELLITE PROGRAM DISCUSSED--The French PTT minister, Louis Mexandeau, mentioned in Bogota the possibility that France might collaborate in the launching of a communication satellite of the Andean group. Mr Mexandeau made this proposal during a press conference following a 45-minute meeting with President Belisario Betancur. "We (France) are in a position to launch these satellites.... we have the necessary technology and the launching could be made from the Kourou Space Center, in Guyana," the minister declared. [Text] [Paris LES ECHOS in French 8 Aug 84 p 6] 11,023

COLOMBIAN, VENEZUELAN TELEPHONE MARKETS--Louis Mexandeau, French PTT minister, completed on Sunday a trip to Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador, meant to develop cooperation between France and these countries in the field of telecommunications. "In Venezuela," he stated to Agence France Presse, "we are in competition with foreign companies to expand telephone networks, and there, we have sealed an alliance with Philips, which is itself associated with ITT." For Colombia, the minister declared that France was interested in several projects for urban switchgear and rural telephone systems. He pointed out that the Colombian government's concern to reach co-industrialization agreements coincided with the French action, and that an agreement could be concluded to manufacture telephone exchanges in that country, as CIT-Alcatel has done in India. [Text] [Paris LES ECHOS in French 13 Aug 84 p 6] 11,023

CSO: 5500/2762

ERICSSON ENJOYING CONTINUED EXPORT SUCCESS WITH AXE PHONE SYSTEM

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 1 Aug 84 p 8

[Article by Peder Carlquist: "Ecuador Number 54: 20 Billion Worth of AXE Phone Systems Sold"]

[Text] Ericsson has signed a contract with Ecuador calling for delivery of 180 million kronor's worth of AXE phone systems. That makes a total of 54 countries that have chosen AXE. The combined sum of the orders, since the first AXE phone systems were introduced in 1976, amounts to approximately 20 billion kronor in prices current since then. It amounts to several additional billion, using the prices of today.

Small articles about AXE have been a constant part of the economic pages of the newspapers. As late as yesterday there was an article about an order to Uruguay, worth 500 million kronor.

Will AXE be mentioned in the history books of the 21st century along with such classics as the gas beacon from AGA and the ballbearings from SKR?

The difference between AXE and the others is that the latter were new technological inventions. AXE contains no new technology.

The best part of AXE is mainly the system, not the hardware.

"AXE Developed"

That is why Ericsson decidedly refutes the Cassandras who maintain that AXE's heyday is past and that it will be succeeded by a "new generation of phone systems."

Japanese Surplus

In June Japan's export showed a record surplus of \$4.85 billion (about 40.3 billion kronor), according to official figures disclosed last Tuesday.

Western Europe and the United States have criticized Japan for its inordinate export of industrial goods and a diplomat commented on the latest results by saying that "the seeds for future conflict are being sown."

Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, repeating his admonition to the Japanese of last month, said that they must buy more foreign goods in order to comply with the demands of the rest of the world that Japan should import more.

"The concept of generations cannot be applied to AXE. It is constantly being developed and will be sold in large quantities way into the 1990's," says Kjell Sandberg with the sales staff at Ericsson.

AXE consists of various functions which more or less monitor themselves. Such functions, for instance, are the subscriber stage (which receives the call, gives the dial tone and transmits the call, etc), a "charging unit" that charges the call to the subscriber, a unit for operation and maintenance (which keeps statistics, searches for faults, etc), a unit for the mobile phonenetwork, and so on.

A phone system contains a number of necessary functions and also a number of additional functions, such as mobile telephones and subscriber services.

The point of AXE is, that the functions are physically separated from each other, as opposed to most other systems. One function can be changed to another with greater capacity, more services, etc, without interfering with the other functions.

A central computer is necessary, however, in order for the whole system to function.

New Generation

Ericsson's foremost competitor, the American ITT, is aiming at the central computer. ITT is now introducing a system with a number of small "decentralized" computers instead of a central one and calls it "the new generation system."

"We do not feel threatened by ITT," says Kjell Sandberg

"ITT does not manufacture their own computers, instead they buy 'standard processors' that do not have the same capacity for telephony, as the ones that we manufacture to order.

"The disadvantage of having a central computer must be weighed against the disadvantage of having a number of small computers. In the latter case the system becomes so much more complicated and there is an inordinate number of steps between various units before a call can go through. Our central computer has a backup at all times, so that the system will not be affected if the computer breaks down," he points out.

Free Market

So far, the world market for phone systems have been characterized by the fact that the largest parts of the market, North America, Japan and West Germany, have been closed to foreign suppliers.

But a change seems to be under way, especially in the United States.

The American regional telephone companies have become independent and, in the future, they will be able to buy freely from which ever supplier they choose. Each one of these companies is a very large potential customer.

In one throw it means that Ericsson's market becomes twice as large.

In this area Ericsson sees very large future deliveries, in spite of the fact that two of its foremost competitors are American: Western Electric and Northern Telecom.

"In the last couple of years, the trend has been towards more and more manufacturers of phone systems. There is a kind of national prestige in having your own development. Now we are probably going to see a period of cooperation and elimination," says Ragnar Back, head of sales at Ericsson.

Each letter of AXE is spelled out. You will not be understood at Ericsson if you call and ask about "axe."

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